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The White Moose

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The White Moose

A stirring outside my cabin window
on a dark winterward night
with but brightless stars to write.

Beside a dazzling tree of rime and ice
a moose, white as new-fallen snow,
standing in a candleshaft of light.

I measure all outfacing days against it.

John Smelcer

JOHN SMELCER is the last living member of the Ahtna Native People of Alaska who can read, write, and speak the Ahtnas' severely endangered language. He is the author of 50 books, including his poetry book *Indian Giver* (Leapfrog, 2016).